

Members of Racial Minorities in Construction and Other Industries

When all racial groups, except "white" are combined into "racial minority," the data show that 872,000 were employed in construction in 2000, as self-employed and wage-and-salary workers.¹ The percentage of workers who are members of racial minorities is lower in construction than for all industries (chart 18a). In addition, in construction, only about 17% of workers who are members of racial minorities were self-employed in 1998-2000, on average, compared with 25% of all construction workers.

If members of racial minorities are considered as a proportion of each construction occupation, racial minorities are 20% of concrete finishers, for instance (chart 18b).

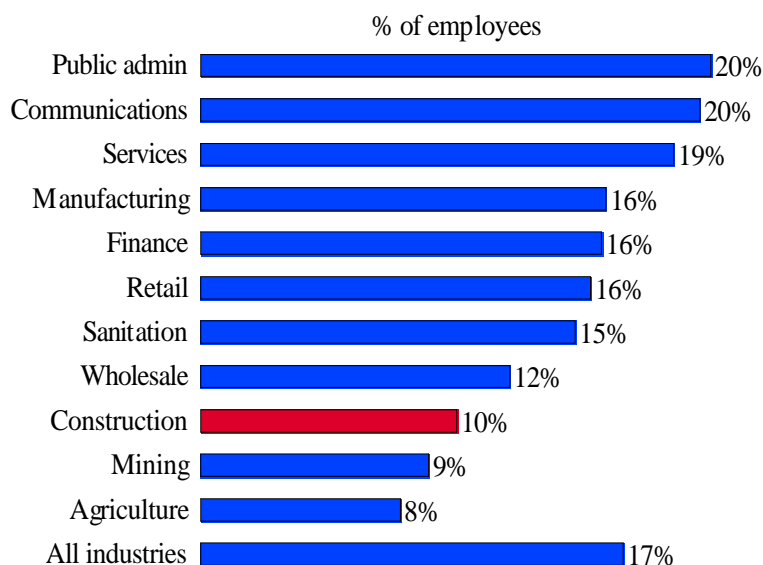
Among construction workers who are members of racial minorities, 16% were laborers or helpers. That proportion is higher than the average of 11.5% of all racial groups who were laborers (chart 18c).

Only 8% of members of racial minorities in construction were women, a figure slightly lower than the average for all women in the industry (10%).

The Current Population Survey, the source for numbers on this page, classifies race as white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, and American Indian and Alaskan Native (*see* chart book page 11). Only data for whites and blacks are published, because the sample size for the other races is not large enough to produce statistically reliable estimates. The survey is scheduled to introduce revised race categories beginning in 2003.

"Race," which characterizes the population based on physical characteristics, is separate from ethnicity, which considers cultural, linguistic, or national-origin traits.² So, for instance, people of Hispanic origin may or may not be included in racial minorities (*see* chart book page 16).

18a. Members of racial minorities as a percentage of employees, by industry, 2000 (Wage-and-salary workers)

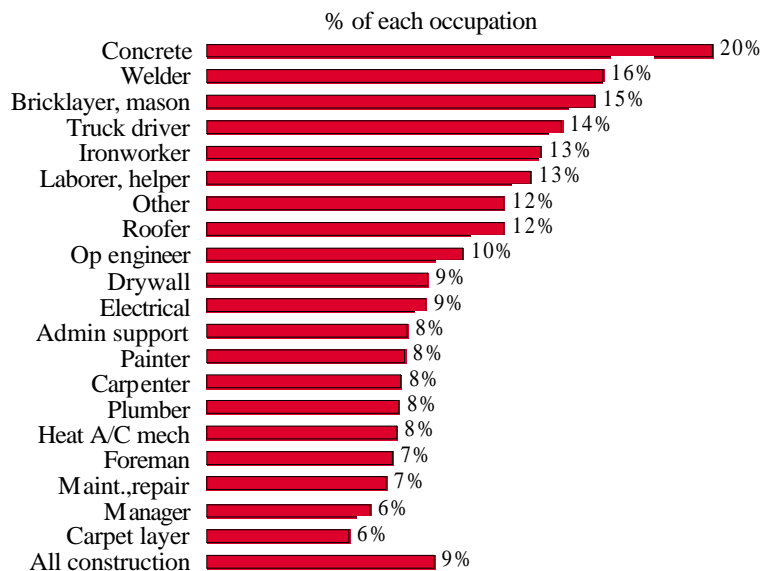


1. All numbers in the text are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2000 Current Population Survey Earnings Files, Washington, D.C. Calculations by Xiuwen Dong, The Center to Protect Workers' Rights.

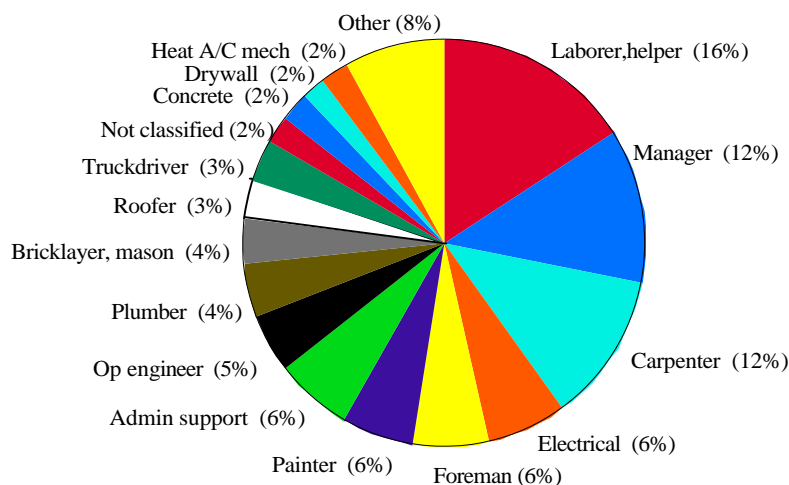
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Report on the American Workforce*, 2001, 18-20.

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/rtaw/pdf/rtaw2001.pdf> Available from Office of Publications and Special Studies, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C., 20212, or by calling 202-691-5200.

18b. Members of racial minorities as a percentage of each construction occupation, 1998-2000 average
(All types of employment)



18c. Distribution among construction occupations of workers who are members of racial minorities, 1998-2000 average
(All types of employment)



Note: All charts - Averages include all occupations from managerial through clerical/support.

Charts 18a, 18b, and 18c - "Racial minorities" are those who choose to identify themselves as black, American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo, Asian or Pacific Islander, or other than white. (The national 2000 census allows each individual to list more than once race, but the Current Population Survey, the source for data used here, does not.)

Charts 18b and 18c - Percentages given are 3-year averages; the sample size is larger than 30 for each category, except ironworker (24) and carpet layer (21) on chart 18b.

Chart 18c - "Not classified" refers to some construction occupations (Census Bureau code 599), but not their supervisors; *see* chart 12b. "Other" includes repair, sheetmetal, elevator, tile layer, insulation, glazier, boilermaker, extractive workers, driller, millwright, and those who worked in construction but are not in typical construction occupations (such as, meat cutter) or are not shown on the occupational listing. Percentages do not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Charts 18a, 18b and/or 18c - U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1998, 1999, and 2000 Current Population Survey Earnings Files, Washington, D.C. Calculations by Xiuwen Dong, The Center to Protect Workers' Rights.